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PTQ3487

RELEASED IN PART
B2, B6

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00
MEDE-00 EB-00 E-00 FAAE-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 VCE-00 AC-01 DCP-01 NSCE-00 CAEX-01 PER-00
ACE-00 IRM-00 TEST-00 ALM-00 NFAT-00 CCR-01 SAS-00
/004W

-----CD2003 181633Z /38

R 181613Z JUL 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6807

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 002089

NSC FOR SALCEDO
WHA/AND FOR NARANJO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, PGOV, PREL, ECON, SOCI, OTRA, VE
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR USAID REPRESENTATIVE RUSSELL
PORTER

1. EMBASSY CARACAS WELCOMES AND GRANTS COUNTRY CLEARANCE TO
TDYER RUSSELL PORTER, USAID OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES
(OTI), FROM JULY 22 THROUGH AUGUST 2, 2002. PURPOSE OF THE
VISIT IS TO OPEN OTI'S OFFICE AND TO BEGIN DEVELOPING A MORE
DETAILED STRATEGY TO SUPPORT DIALOGUE AND STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS IN VENEZUELA.

2. POINT OF CONTACT FOR VISIT WILL BE POLITICAL ASSOCIATE ALICIA
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PARKERSON, TELEPHONE NUMBERS: (O): 011-58-212-975-6318, EXT.
2192; [REDACTED] IN
CASE OF EMERGENCY, AFTER HOURS ASSISTANCE CAN BE OBTAINED BY
PHONING EMBASSY MARINE GUARD POST ONE AT: [REDACTED]
EMBASSY ADDRESS IS: CALLE "F" CON CALLE SUAPURE, COLINAS DE
VALLE ARRIBA, MUNICIPIO BARUTA, CARACAS.

B6

B2

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

3. HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE BEING MADE AT THE HOTEL TAMANACO,
CONFIRMATION NUMBER PENDING.

CURRENCY CONVERSION

4. CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE IS APPROXIMATELY 1330 BOLIVARES PER ONE

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USD. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT TRAVELERS OBTAIN ABOUT \$50 USD IN LOCAL CURRENCY PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE U.S. AS THE EXCHANGE RATE AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT, CARACAS, MAY NOT BE AS FAVORABLE. CASHIER SERVICES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE EMBASSY.

TRANSPORTATION

5. POC AND EMBASSY WILL MEET AND ASSIST VISITOR AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT AND ESCORT TO HOTEL TAMANACO.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

6. AN AIRPORT USER FEE OF 29,600 BS. IN CASH ONLY (APPROXIMATELY 21.76 USD) IS LEVIED AT THE AIRPORT UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY FOR HOLDERS OF OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. HOLDERS OF TOURIST PASSPORTS MUST PAY 44,400 BS. (APPROXIMATELY 32.65 USD) FOR THE USER FEE PLUS AN EXIT TAX. PAYMENT OF BOTH FEES ARE PAYABLE ONLY IN BOLIVARES.

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THREAT INFORMATION

7. TERRORISM/CIVIL DISTURBANCE: TRAVELERS TO VENEZUELA SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN URBAN CENTERS, AND EXERCISE APPROPRIATE CAUTION BY STAYING WELL CLEAR OF PUBLIC PROTESTS, POLICE LINES AND BARRICADES THEY MAY ENCOUNTER.

8. CRIME: CARACAS AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES IN VENEZUELA ARE DESIGNATED HIGH-THREAT AREAS FOR CRIME. MOST CRIMES ARE COMMITTED AGAINST PERSONS ON THE STREET AND ARE USUALLY MONEY-ORIENTED CRIMES. THEY MAY INVOLVE A THREAT OF VIOLENCE, BUT RARELY RESULT IN VIOLENCE UNLESS THE CRIMINAL FEELS THREATENED. INCIDENTS CAN OCCUR DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AS WELL AS AT NIGHT. EXPENSIVE JEWELRY, PARTICULARLY GOLD OR GOLD-COLORED, ATTRACTS THE ATTENTION OF THIEVES. TRAVELERS ARE ADVISED TO LEAVE ALL SUCH JEWELRY ITEMS ESPECIALLY EXPENSIVE WRISTWATCHES, AT HOME. TAXIS ARE PLENTIFUL AND RELATIVELY SAFE. HOWEVER, GROUP TRAVEL IS RECOMMENDED FOR NIGHT-TIME OUTINGS. TRAVELERS SHOULD CARRY ONLY MINIMUM CASH NEEDED AND NO MORE THAN ONE CREDIT CARD WHEN VENTURING OUTSIDE THE HOTEL.

MEDICAL ALERT

9. CASES OF CHOLERA ARE POSSIBLE IN VENEZUELA. THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST CHOLERA IS TO AVOID FOOD AND WATER THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED WITH HUMAN FECES. FISH AND SHELLFISH ARE ESPECIALLY PRONE TO CARRY THE CHOLERA BACTERIA AND SHOULD NOT BE EATEN. DRINK ONLY BOTTLED WATER OR CARBONATED SOFT DRINKS. AVOID HAVING ICE IN DRINKS SINCE ICE HERE IS RARELY MADE FROM TREATED WATER. DO NOT EAT RAW VEGETABLES OR FRUITS UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN DISINFECTED, PEELED OR COOKED. WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN

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WITH HOT SOAPY WATER. THE ONSET OF CHOLERA IS CHARACTERIZED BY
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ABRUPT, PAINLESS WATERY DIARRHEA CAUSING A LOSS OF UP TO ONE LITER OF LIQUID PER HOUR. OTHER SYMPTOMS MAY INCLUDE ABDOMINAL CRAMPS AND VOMITING. CHOLERA CAUSES SEVERE DEHYDRATION AND CAN BE FATAL IF LEFT UNTREATED. IF YOU EXPERIENCE THESE SYMPTOMS, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.

10. NUMEROUS CASES OF DENGUE FEVER HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. AS THIS DISEASE IS TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITOS, TRAVELERS PLANNING TO SPEND TIME OUTDOORS SHOULD BRING INSECT REPELLENT, WEAR LONG TROUSERS WHEN POSSIBLE, AND AVOID WET AREAS THAT COULD SERVE AS BREEDING GROUNDS. SYMPTOMS INCLUDE FEVER, HEADACHES, DIARRHEA AND GENERAL MALAISE. ALTHOUGH THESE SICKNESSES ARE RARELY FATAL, YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR IF YOU EXPERIENCE THESE SYMPTOMS.

MISCELLANEOUS

11. WEATHER IN VENEZUELA: DAYTIME TEMPERATURES IN CARACAS ARE BETWEEN 70-90 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. AFTERNOON RAIN SHOWERS ARE COMMON AND EVENINGS CAN BE COOL.

12. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESS: VISITORS WHO HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL PRESS WHILE IN

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	E-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSCE-00	PER-00	ACE-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	R-00
	ALM-00	NFAT-00	CCR-01	SAS-00	/002W		
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R 181613Z JUL 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6808

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 002089

NSC FOR SALCEDO
WHA/AND FOR NARANJO

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SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR USAID REPRESENTATIVE RUSSELL
PORTER

VENEZUELA SHOULD SPEAK WITH THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER SHORTLY
AFTER ARRIVAL.

COOK

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